

## **JUDICIAL BRANCH MAINE JUSTICE FOR CHILDREN TASK FORCE**

<b>Type:</b>	<b>Task Force</b>
<b>Established:</b>	<b>November 2, 2006</b>
<b>Chair:</b>	<b>Chief Justice Leigh I. Saufley</b>
<b>Report date:</b>	<b>Annually (on October 31<sup>st</sup>)</b>
<b>Reports to:</b>	<b>Supreme Judicial Court</b>
<b>Completion Date:</b>	<b>October 31, 2010</b>

### **I. Purpose:**

The Maine Justice for Children Task Force is hereby established as a collaborative, multidisciplinary Task Force to improve safety, permanency, and well-being for children in the State of Maine child welfare system.

The Task Force will:

- A. Identify strengths which contribute to the safety, permanency, and well-being of children in the State of Maine child welfare system;
- B. Identify systemic barriers which may negatively impact on the safety, permanency, and well-being of children in the State of Maine child welfare system;
- C. Prioritize issues and develop joint solutions to remove identified barriers;
- D. Identify the training needs of stakeholders in child protective proceedings;
- E. Adopt a training curriculum for stakeholders in child protective proceedings;
- F. Monitor implementation of the Court Improvement Programs (CIPs) and Program Improvement Plans (PIPs);
- G. Encourage widespread participation in Child and Family Services Reviews (CFSRs) and Care Eligibility Reviews;
- H. Sponsor regular local meetings involving all stakeholders which will provide training, foster collaboration at the local level, and identify issues which have statewide implications;
- I. Establish other goals for the Task Force, and establish timelines for steps toward each goal, and monitor and evaluate progress toward the established goals;

- J. Address other topics identified by the Task Force which impact on the safety, permanency; and well-being of children in the State of Maine child welfare system; and
- K. Provide input and feedback regarding state-wide performance standards for the timely resolution of matters involving children and families in the child welfare system,

## **II. Authority:**

The Task Force shall seek input, suggestions, and recommendations from individuals and groups within and outside Maine state government. The Task Force is authorized to study policies and procedures considered by or in effect in other states and any other model policies or procedures. The Task Force may propose recommendations generally and those in the form of proposed rules, rule amendments, statutes, orders, or policies.

The Chair may, in her discretion, establish subgroups to study designated issues and report recommendations for consideration by the Task Force as a whole.

There is no funding authorized for the work of the Task Force.

## **III. Membership:**

The membership in the Task Force shall include those listed below, except in instances when the Chief Justice of the Supreme Judicial Court, in consultation with the Commissioner of the Department of Health and Human Services, determines that modification of that list is necessary:

Hon. Leigh I. Saufley, Chief Justice, Maine Supreme Judicial Court  
Brenda Harvey, Commissioner, Department of Health and Human Services  
Hon. Ann M. Murray, Deputy Chief Judge, Maine District Court  
Hon. Rebecca Irving, Tribal Judge, Passamaquoddy Nation  
Hon. Carol Emery, Probate Judge, Knox County  
James Beougher, Director, Bureau of Children and Family Services (DHHS)  
Janice Stuver, Assistant Attorney General, Division Chief  
Katharine S. Forte, Esq., Attorney  
Carolyn Adams, Esq., Attorney  
Wayne Doane, Esq., Guardian Ad Litem  
Christopher M. Northrop, Esq., Professor University of Maine School of Law  
Bette Hoxie, Foster Parent Representative

Tracie Adamson, Family Division Manager, Maine District Court  
Doug Birgfeld, Project Manager, JB Office of Information Technology  
Bartlett Stoodley, Assoc. Commissioner of Dept. of Corrections' Juvenile Services  
Susan Gendron, Commissioner of Department of Education  
Molly Newell, Director, Sipayik Human Services  
Senator Debra D. Plowman, Maine State Senate  
Representative Michael E. Dunn, Maine House of Representatives  
Roxanne Carpentier, Former Youth in Care  
Pentheia Burns, University of Southern Maine  
Patrick F. Ende Sr., Policy Advisor to the Governor  
Dean Crocker, MSW, Program Manager Ombudsman for Child Welfare Services

The Chief Justice of the Supreme Judicial Court will serve as the Chair.

#### **IV. Meetings:**

The Task Force shall meet as often as is necessary to complete its responsibilities. The Chair shall, in consultation with the members, schedule the meetings of the Task Force.

#### **V. Reporting:**

The Task Force shall issue a report to be presented to the Supreme Judicial Court annually on October 31<sup>st</sup> or as otherwise requested.

#### **VI. Task Force Duration:**

Unless the charter is extended by the Chief Justice, the Task Force will cease to exist on October 31, 2010.

Dated: March 7, 2007

Approved by:

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Leigh I. Saufley  
Chief Justice

**JUDICIAL BRANCH  
MAINE JUSTICE FOR CHILDREN TASK FORCE  
MEMBERSHIP ROSTER**

**10/31/10**

Hon. Leigh I. Saufley, Chief Justice, Maine Supreme Judicial Court (**Chair**)  
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Hon. Ann M. Murray, Deputy Chief Judge, Maine District Court  
Hon. Rebecca Irving, Tribal Judge, Passamaquoddy Nation  
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